# UNION SNELSTART ALGEMEEN

NL

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**UNION QUICK START GENERAL** 



Congratulations on your new Union bike! As you can expect from us, your bike has been designed and produced with the utmost care. Union therefore provides you with a long-term guarantee, the terms of which can be found in the manual and on our website under the section *"support"*.

Read the quick start guide carefully and if you have any further questions, your Union dealer will be happy to provide you with advice and assistance.

Off you go, Bikers First!



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## **1 MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY**

Good maintenance is very important, also for your Union bike. That is why it is wise to check it regularly and keep it properly clean. We recommend that you take your bike to your Union dealer at least once a year for servicing. Your dealer can tell you more about this. Your Union dealer will often have a specific maintenance programme; ask about this to set your mind completely at rest.

#### **1.1 MAINTENANCE**

If you want to give your Union a good clean, remove any coarse dirt first. Use a regular brush or paintbrush which is not too hard. This will remove the worst of the dirt. Take care to avoid scratching! You can remove any residual dirt using a clean cloth or even better a flannel polishing cloth.

Bring your bike back to tip-top condition with some nice warm water, adding liquid soap if you wish, and a soft cloth. Alkaline cleaning products like ammonia or soda are not recommended. It is also best to avoid using products containing fluorides, chlorides or sulphates.

Rinse the bike off next with a garden hose. Don't use a spray head with too strong a jet or a pressure washer! The high pressure will force water into places it shouldn't go.

#### Paintwork

Every Union bike has as many as four coats of paint. The top coat consists of an environmentally-friendly rock-hard clear powder coating which protects your bike against unwanted ingress.

#### 1.2 SAFETY

After a period of use, parts may get a little loose. Be alert to this; after all, you don't want to find out during a ride that your saddle or handlebar is loose. Before you set off, make sure that all parts such as gears, brakes, handlebar and saddle are working properly and are fastened securely.

Every bike needs maintenance, which includes your Union, so be sure to visit your Union dealer regularly; they will have the right knowledge and tools to keep your bike in top condition. If your bike gets damaged, always get this seen to by your Union dealer, so that they can advise whether the part needs replacing.

# 2 THE HANDLEBAR

### 2.1 ADJUSTMENT

The height of the handlebar determines the pressure on your hands and your back posture, among other things, and therefore has a substantial impact on your ride comfort. Union bikes are fitted with handlebars that can be adjusted to suit. They can be raised, lowered, or tilted.

To adjust the height of the stem itself, you unscrew bolt **(A)** by a couple of turns using a 6 mm Allen key. If this doesn't loosen the stem enough, you can use a rubber hammer to give the bolt a couple of taps. Now the handlebar can be positioned at the required height. Re-tighten the bolt firmly once you have finished. The position of the handlebar tube can be adjusted using clamping bolt **(B)**.



### 2.2 HEAD LOCK

Various Union bikes feature a head lock. This prevents the handlebar from swinging right round when the bicycle is not moving. You activate the head lock by twisting the black ring anti-clockwise (see fig. 2). The arrows and the padlock icons on the aluminium ring indicate the direction of rotation. Don't panic if you have forgotten to release the head lock when you set off. You can still turn the handlebar and you will hear and feel it click, to indicate that the head lock is still locked. Release the head lock by twisting the black ring clockwise, after which the bike can be steered normally.



# **3 BOTTOM BRACKET, CRANKS AND PEDALS**

The pedals are attached through the cranks to the bottom bracket. You do not need to do anything with these, because everything has been manufactured as a "sealed unit". Conveniently, this means they do not require any maintenance.

It is a good idea nevertheless to pay some attention to these components. Accordingly, the cranks must be secure and they must not show any play. If they do, they may feel different and they are bound to make a noise. The parts may also become irreparably damaged. However, the pedals can still have a bit of play, given the force that is exerted through them. If the pedals themselves or the cranks are bent or damaged, following a fall for instance, they must be replaced. Never unbend them!

The left-hand pedal is marked with an "L", the right-hand pedal with an "R". Attach the right-hand pedal to the right-hand crank, and the left-hand pedal to the left-hand crank. If you mount them the other way round, you will damage the screw thread. (3). Turn the pedal-axle by hand in the corresponding screw hole in the crank (4). Secure the pedal using the Allen key

(15 mm). Turn the right-hand pedal anti-clockwise to secure it.

Turn the left-hand pedal clockwise to secure it.





### **4** SITTING POSITION

Sit on your Union to check whether the saddle is at the right height. We give a recommendation, but ultimately you will need to decide for yourself whether you feel comfortable with the saddle at the height we have suggested.

In brief, it comes down to the following: When you are seated, with one heel on the pedal, you should just be able to reach the ground with the toes of the other foot. Your leg is

then almost fully stretched, but not completely; your knee must not "lock". (See fig. 5). If you cycle now with the ball of your foot resting on the pedal, your leg will be slightly bent. If you prefer to be able to touch with ground with both feet, you can of course, but in theory your saddle will then be too low.

You can adjust the height of the saddle **(6)** using bolt A. You can use a 13 mm Allen key or a 5 mm hex socket screw. Remember to tighten the bolt again once you have adjusted the saddle. Bolt B enables you to adjust the saddle fore and aft and set the saddle angle.



### **5 TYRES**

One of the most important considerations when it comes to being able to get enjoyment out of cycling is the right tyre pressure. Having tyres that are too soft can have many negative effects: the tyre goes flat more quickly, it is more difficult to steer and brake efficiently and the wear and tear on your tyre and bike are much higher. Therefore, there are many reasons to check them regularly! Depending on the width of the tyre, the tyre pressure will vary between 3 and 5 bar: the wider the tyre, the lower the tyre pressure.



# 6 LIGHTS

All Union bikes come fitted with front and rear lights to allow you to cycle safely in traffic. In this section you can read all about the operation of the different types of lights and how to carry out minor repairs.

### 6.1 CONTROLS

Union has bikes with battery lights and lights powered by a hub dynamo. All lights can be switched on or off except for the Union Lite, which stays on all the time for optimum safety. Thanks to the free-running hub dynamo you won't feel a thing!

The other front and rear lights (see fig. 8, 9 and 10) are switched on using the sliding on/ off switch (A). The lights on electric bikes are switched on or off on the handlebar display. You will find the explanation for this in *section 8 "electric bikes"*. Below you will find an example of different buttons on the lights.



Battery lights on your Union are fitted with LED bulbs with a very long lifespan. If, however, the light fails to switch on, check for a red tab marked "PULL", and remove it. If the light still fails to switch on after you have done this, the batteries probably need replacing. If your hub dynamo lights do not work, check whether the cable from the light is connected correctly to the hub and the light. If the lights do not work after this check, we recommend you to consult your Union dealer for advice.

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#### Replacing the battery in the front light

Do you have a Spanninga Swingo front light (see figs. 11 and 12)? To replace the battery, you will need to prise the lens off the light using a coin in the indentation (B).







#### Replacing the battery in the rear light

In the rear light (see fig. 13) you can loosen the screw (B) before removing the cover. You will see the batteries straight away, in order to replace them. Bear in mind that the screw may be located behind the on/off switch.

### 7 CHILD SEATS

Riding your Union is even more fun with your little one at the front or rear, but do take care, because this is a delicate matter. There are a few things you must bear in mind if you want to attach a child seat. If you want to fit a child seat on the front of the bike, choose a model which mounts on the handlebar stem. We advise against fitting a seat that is mounted onto the handlebar itself. When it comes to rear seats, we recommend you choose one that comes with a seat tube attachment and/or frame attachment. This is much stronger and safer than mounting it onto the luggage carrier. Do not use a child seat to carry children unless it is EN 14344 approved. Whatever you choose, seek the advice of your Union dealer, who can give you the best advice on whether your seat is safe and properly secured.

#### NB

- Carrying another person is only permitted within the framework of the applicable statutory provisions.
- Cover any exposed coil springs under the saddle to prevent the child's fingers from getting trapped in them.

# CONTACT DETAILS

Do you have any further questions arising from this manual? Then please contact us using our contact form at www.union.nl/nl/service/contact/

Would you like a ride on one of our bikes? Then visit our Experience Center, where all our models are available for you to try. Of course, your local Union dealers also have the collection available to them, but ring them beforehand to check whether the model you want is there.

The address of our Experience Center is: Union / Gazelle Experience Center Nijkerkerstraat 17, 3821 CD Amersfoort, T 033 - 253 35 70

#### Disclaimer

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